

are here today. We wish Rabbi Behar's mom Rivka a speedy get well.

On behalf of the House of Representatives we would like to thank him, not only for his eloquent words this morning, but more importantly, for his service to his faith, his community, and to his country.

URGING MEMBERS TO ENACT ROBUST ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES THE TAXPAYER AND CREATES JOBS

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, our economy needs a boost, and it seems that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree on a couple of basic points: First, we must do something to stimulate the economy; Second, President Bush's tax proposal would create jobs.

Since we can agree that cutting taxes creates jobs, why would Democrats want to slash the proposed economic stimulus in half?

It is estimated that tax relief would create 700,000 jobs yearly throughout the country. In Kansas, this plan would create over 9,000 jobs per year over the next 5 years. Why do we choose to limit our success by cutting these numbers in half?

Some think the answer to our problem is to make the government a little larger. I believe the answer lies in empowering people with their own money so they can work, save, and invest in our economy.

I urge my colleagues to hold the line on spending and to enact a robust economic stimulus to prioritize taxpayers and create jobs.

THE ECONOMY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong concerns over the current state of the economy and the President's solution to stimulate this economy.

The President has defended his proposal for a tax cut of at least \$550 billion, arguing that a large tax cut will create more jobs.

Now, let us see. The last tax cut that this President did was signed into law, and it was the largest tax cut in history, with a cost nearing \$2 trillion. How effective has that been in creating jobs? Let us see. It is estimated that 53,000 United States workers lost their jobs this month alone. Unemployment is still hovering around 6 percent. So it looks to me like the President is using more of his fuzzy math here.

We need to work to come up with real solutions that reduce unemployment and that help us with respect to

education, the environment, child care, and, yes, a prescription drug plan for seniors.

If Members want to cut taxes, then alleviate the tax burden on the working poor and on the middle class; do not do it to the wealthy, who are the least likely to get this economy turning.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. CRUZ ACOSTA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and spirit of Mr. Cruz Acosta, a wonderful constituent and an exceptional human being who remains high-spirited despite his struggle with cancer.

Cruz was the first in his family to leave the tyranny of Cuba in search of freedom, living his life in appreciation of the liberty he found here in the United States.

Throughout the last 11 years, he has fought bone marrow cancer and leukemia, but his continuous desire for better health would not have been possible without the loving care and prayers of his family and the dedicated attention of the nurses and the doctors at Baptist Hospital, an exceptional medical institution located in my district.

As he remains in the hospital today, my thoughts and my prayers are with his wife, Miriam, with Cruz, and his entire family.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT FREDERICK POKORNEY

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, United States Marine Corps First Lieutenant Frederick Pokorney was killed in action in Iraq on March 23, 2003. On that day, Nevada lost a true American patriot, a proud Marine, and a loving husband and father.

Fred was born in California and raised himself from an early age, until he moved to Tonopah, Nevada, to live with Wade and Susie Lieseke, whom he regarded as his parents.

Fred's first love was his family, with his favorite time being spent with his "best little helper," his daughter. His second love was the Marines and this great Nation.

When I spoke to Fred's wife, Chelle, she said that he embodied what it is to be a Marine: honor, courage, commitment.

Lieutenant Pokorney's daughter Taylor expressed her loss in these words: "My daddy, my hero, I will take care of mommy for you as you asked. We will be best friends. I will take her to Sea World for my birthday like you planned. I love you. I need you. I miss you."

The hearts of all Nevadans and all Americans go out to his family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Shelly, and their 3-year-old daughter, Taylor.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACK IN TEL AVIV

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, was approved yesterday as the first Palestinian prime minister. Hours before he was sworn in, a suicide bomber blew himself up at a popular nightclub known as Mike's Place, located right beside the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv. At least three people were killed and 30 injured, including an American.

The world's attention is now focused on the new Palestinian leader, Abu Mazen. He has denounced terrorism, but words are not enough. Mazen must do everything possible to disarm terrorist groups such as Hamas and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade that are doing everything possible to derail the peace process.

President George W. Bush has a vision for the Middle East, a plan that was delivered this morning where Israelis and Palestinians live side by side in peace. We must not let terrorists thwart the important peace process that is now under way.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

CALLING ON SENATOR RICK SANTORUM TO APOLOGIZE FOR REMARKS OFFENSIVE TO GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY OR TO STEP DOWN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I waited patiently as the words of a Member of the other body permeated throughout our society with respect to negative comments on the gay and lesbian community.

As a Member of this great body and the Committee on the Judiciary, I have a great deal of respect and honor for the Bill of Rights and the first amendment, and the right for individuals to express their beliefs. I honor that.

But as an African American, I stand squarely and solidly against any form of discrimination. I think America loses its promise and its values and its beliefs in equal opportunity and equality for all and justice if there is a second-class discrimination.

I believe it is imperative for Senator RICK SANTORUM to apologize fully to the gay and lesbian community of this Nation and around the world or step down from leadership. We cannot tolerate this kind of reckless speech.